407 tractors in time for either the spring or the autumn ploughing season in 1946. The first shipment of UNRRA tractors arrived in the Republic in December. Altogether, UNRRA expects to deliver about 800 tractors. The Byelorussian Minister of Agriculture gave the Mission an estimate that 20,000 15-horsepower tractor units would be needed to reorganize farm work on an adequate level of mechanization.[1]

In speaking of the need for farm machinery in this Republic, the UNRRA Mission said: "It is important to recognize that Byelorussian farming is not a hand-tool agriculture. Rehabilitation and recovery here does not mean a better hoe - it means a better tractor. It means more combine threshers, more grain drills and mechanized equipment. Rehabilitation of agriculture here means re-establishment of the pre-war rate of mechanization of farms, which, in turn, will release labour for still more tractor factories and still more industrialization. Byelorussian farmers spaded by hand 200,000 hectares (half a million acres) in 1945 and half that amount in 1946. Such labours do great credit to the industry of the farmers, but a hungry Byelorussia and a hungry world will not be fed by such primitive farming methods."

Farm Buildings

727 362 By the end of 1946 enough housing had been repaired or built in the B.S.S.R. to enable 250,000 families (about 1.5 million people) to move from dugouts or caves into houses. Rural schools had also been transferred from dugouts to new premises. The Byelorussian newspaper Sovietskaya Byelorussia (issues of December 17 and 24, 1946) reported that 254,000 houses had been restored in rural areas since liberation. Eighty-two thousand had been rebuilt in 1944, 112,000 in 1945, and 60,000 in 1946, and 45,556 houses were still in process of construction. As at the end of 1946, 10,000 rural families (50,000 people) were still living in dugouts and caves.

Farm Manpower

464 Besides the deplorable housing situation, which contributes to lowered work efficiency, there is a great shortage of labour. Since the war it is women rather than men who constitute the main labour force on Byelorussian farms. UNRRA Mission observations in mid-1946 gave a ratio of four to six women to every man. In some sections, 80 to 90 per cent. of the workers were women. On one farm visited the labour force consisted of five men, 75 women, and 21 young boys and girls. A total of 43 men from this one farm had been killed during the war.

---

1 The 15-horsepower unit is the common method of computing tractor numbers. Most Soviet tractors are larger than 15-horsepower, but a 45-horsepower machine would be considered, for example, as equivalent to three tractor units. An editorial in Sovietskaya Byelorussia, Minsk, January 8, 1947, stated that the average output per 15-horsepower tractor in 1946 was 338 hectares of ploughing, sowing, harvesting, and threshing, which is 73 hectares higher than the average for 1945.

433 manufacturing linen from scraps. The aluminum factory in Borisov was making utensils, but the material available, all of which was supplied by UNRRA, was sufficient for only a small output.

Labour

464 As has already been noted, there is a shortage of all categories of workers. The outstanding characteristic of the present force is the high percentage of women and youthful workers. In the factories observed by the UNRRA Mission, from 75 to 90 per cent. of the workers were women and young people. Many of these are being trained in special schools.

The Five Year Plan in Industry

471 Under the new Five Year Plan for the rehabilitation of the Soviet economy, the volume of capital investments in the B.S.S.R. in 1946-50 is to be 6,950 million roubles, including 2,422 million for works under the Republic's jurisdiction. In the Soviet Union as a whole, capital investments for the same period are to amount to 250,300 million roubles, of which 157,500 million are to be used in industry.

433 185 The volume of production of Soviet industry in 1950 (the last year of the five year period) is fixed at 205,000 million roubles (in 1926-27 prices), an increase of 48 per cent. as compared with the 1940 output of 138,500 million roubles.

In Byelorussia, the volume of industrial goods produced by the Republic in 1950 is to exceed pre-war output by 16 per cent. The enterprises under the Republic's jurisdiction are to produce goods valued at 2,200 million, of which the output of state industries under local jurisdiction and of industrial co-operatives is to comprise 850 million roubles. The following table shows the physical goals fixed for Byelorussian industry under the Plan.

21: Kolarz J-4 (no date) 1952 R1 Soviet Union R1
BelorussiaRC1

SU 635 Be. 442 131 161 had such a poor view of the strength of the Byelorussian national consciousness that they confined the Republic to a small border strip of 20,000 square miles and 1,500,000 inhabitants. Important Byelorussian districts with the towns of Vitebsk, Gomel and Mogilev remained within the R.S.F.S.R.

It took the Soviet central Government three years to transform the 'token republic' of Byelorussia into one which comprised the bulk of the Byelorussians living in a coherent territory in the western part of European Russia. On March 3rd, 1924, the Central Executive Committee of the U.S.S.R. issued a decree on the 'unification of all territories of the U.S.S.R. having a majority of Byelorussian population'. As a result of this decree the B.S.S.R. was able to enlarge its territory to 42,000 square miles and its population to 4,200,000.

Even after the 'unification decree' certain Byelorussian areas of the Soviet Union remained outside the B.S.S.R. and on December 6th, 1926, a new decree was published to rectify this situation by adding to Byelorussia some further territories including the town of Gomel. Through this second operation Byelorussia became a country of 48,000 square miles with nearly 5,000,000 inhabitants.

Be. [101] The 1926 census showed that great confusion persisted in Byelorussia as to who was a Byelorussian and who was not. Thus out of 4,017,000 ethnical Byelorussians only 3,350,000 declared their language to be Byelorussian. On the other hand the census recorded only 383,000 Great Russians in Byelorussia, although 1,165,000 people considered Great Russian as their language.

Be. 565 464 The basic difficulty which the Soviet régime encountered among the Byelorussians was, however, not the language question, but the fact that the Byelorussian people had hardly any 'revolutionary vanguard' in the form of an industrial proletariat worth mentioning. The five predominantly Byelorussian Governments ('Gubernyas') of the Czarist Empire had in 1913 but 69,000 industrial workers of whom by no means all belonged to the Byelorussian people.

Be. 162 369 Although Soviet statistics claimed that Byelorussian industry increased twenty-one-fold between 1913 and 1937, industrialization and urbanization made less progress in Byelorussia than in most other parts of European Russia. The major Byelorussian towns did not share in the general speedy growth of Soviet cities, nor did any new 'mushroom towns' emerge. Of the 174 towns of the Soviet Union which in 1939 had over 50,000 inhabitants only five were in Byelorussia and the largest Byelorussian town, Minsk, occupied the thirty-second place among the cities of the U.S.S.R. Byelorussia's towns were in the inter-war period only partially Byelorussian from the ethnical point of view, since they all had very large Jewish populations and included also a considerable number of Great Russians. In 1926 Minsk had 43·6 per cent Jewish